

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Letter dated September 14, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 11 through and 14 have been amended. New claims 15 and 16 have been added. The application now includes claims 1 through 16, with claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 13 through 15 being independent claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Letter, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 14 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner provided specific comments concerning independent claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14 and stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14 to address the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, applicants believe that amended claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14 are allowable and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of the claims.

Applicants also have amended dependent claims 2, 4, and 12. Claims 2 through 7 are dependent upon amended independent claim 1, while claim 10 is dependent upon amended independent claim 9 and claim 12 is dependent upon amended independent claim 11. In the Official Letter, the Examiner also stated that claims 2 through 7, 10 and 12 would be allowable if the independent claims were rewritten or amended to overcome the §112 rejection. Accordingly, the applicants believe that claims 2 through 7, 10 and 12 are allowable and respectfully request that the examiner withdraw his rejection of the claims.

Applicants have added new independent claim 15 which is based upon the flow chart shown in Fig. 6. Therefore, applicants believe that new claim 15 introduces no new matter. New claim 15 is similar to allowable amended claim 9, which is also based upon the flow chart shown in Fig. 6. However, while amended claim 9 recites the limitations shown in functional blocks 92 and 94 in Fig. 6, new claim 15 recites the limitation shown in functional block 89. Thus, new claim 15 is concerned with the alternate flow chart path extending below decision block 88 and merely covers the alternate method of operation shown in Fig. 6. Accordingly, because the Examiner

stated that independent claim 9 contains allowable subject matter, applicants believe that new claim 15 also contains allowable subject matter and respectfully request that the Examiner allow the claim.

Applicants also have added new claim 16 that is dependent upon new claim 15. New claim 16 recites the same limitation that is recited in allowable claim 10. Therefore, applicants believe that new claim 16 introduces no new matter and is allowable. Accordingly applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow new claim 16.

Applicants have also amended paragraph no. 12 in the Specification to correct a typographic error.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.